

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY MADRID
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 06021

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, GR
SUBJ: EC-GREECE ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 4566

1. DESPITE WIDESPREAD EXPECTATIONS THAT THE EC WOULD MAKE ITS LONG-DELAYED INITIAL COMMENTS ON THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR (REFTEL) DURING THE JUNE 9 EC-GREECE NEGOTIATING SESSION, THIS DID NOT IN FACT HAPPEN. ACCORDING TO AN OFFICIAL IN THE DUTCH PERM DEL, THE COMMUNITY WAS UNABLE TO COMMENT ON AGRICULTURE ON JUNE 9 BECAUSE OF FRENCH REFUSAL TO GO ALONG WITH A FAIRLY GENERAL STATEMENT WHICH THE OTHER EIGHT MEMBER STATES HAD AGREED TO. THE FRENCH INSISTED THAT THE STATEMENT INCLUDE LANGUAGE STATING THAT THE EC AND GREECE WOULD BE UNABLE TO NEGOTIATE DEFINITIVE AGRICULTURAL ARRANGEMENTS UNTIL THE COMMUNITY HAS ADDRESSED THE OVERALL PROBLEM OF AGRICULTURAL SURPLUSES IN CERTAIN MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCTS AND DECIDED HOW TO RESOLVE THIS
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STRUCTURAL PROBLEM. ACCORDING TO THE DUTCH OFFICIAL, THE ITALIANS, WHO ARE AS CONCERNED ABOUT THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AS THE FRENCH, WERE PREPARED NONETHELESS TO GO ALONG WITH THE MILD PRELIMINARY EC STATEMENT WHICH WOULD, IN ESSENCE, HAVE STIPULATED THAT: (A) GREECE MUST FULLY ACCEPT COMMUNITY MARKET ORGANIZATIONS AND ACCOMPANYING MECHANISMS AT THE TIME OF ACCESSION; (B) TRANSITIONAL

ARRANGEMENTS FOR GREEK AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SHOULD NOT EXTEND BEYOND THE OVERALL TRANSITION PERIOD, THE DURATION OF WHICH IS STILL TO BE NEGOTIATED; AND (C) THE GAP IN PRICES BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL GREEK AND COMMUNITY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SHOULD BE REDUCED MORE OR LESS UNIFORMLY DURING A TRANSITIONAL PERIOD SO THAT UNACCEPTABLE DISTORTIONS IN GREEK AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION WILL NOT OCCUR.

2. IN THE ABSENCE OF DISCUSSION OF AGRICULTURE ON JUNE 9, THE TWO SIDES CONFINED THEMSELVES TO: (A) A PRELIMINARY EC REACTION TO AN EARLIER GREEK PAPER ON SOCIAL POLICY (REF-TEL), AND (B) GREEK PRESENTATION OF PAPERS ON THE RIGHT OF ESTABLISHMENT AND THE REPATRIATION OF FUNDS. ACCORDING TO THE DUTCH OFFICIAL, THE EC'S COMMENTS ON THE SOCIAL POLICY PAPER WERE "ROUTINE, NOT VERY IMPORTANT." THE SAME SOURCE SAID THAT HIS DELEGATION FOUND THE GREEK PAPERS ON THE RIGHT OF ESTABLISHMENT AND REPATRIATION OF FUNDS TO BE "SURPRISINGLY THOROUGH....VERY USEFUL."

3. THE DUTCH PERM DEL OFFICIAL SAID THAT WHILE THE GREEK DELEGATION HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN DISAPPOINTED AT THE COMMUNITY'S FAILURE TO ADDRESS AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS ON JUNE 9--CLEARLY INTERPRETING THIS AS A FURTHER INDICATION OF POSSIBLE DELAYS IN THE EC-GREEK NEGOTIATIONS CAUSED BY THE COMMUNITY'S REVIEW OF THE OVERALL PROBLEMS OF MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURE--THE GREEK DELEGATION "TOOK THE HIGH ROAD--THE GREEKS LET THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT SHOW, BUT DID NOT DWELL ON IT."

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4. THE SAME DUTCH OFFICIAL SAID THAT IN RECENT COREPER DISCUSSIONS THE FRENCH HAVE BEGUN TRYING TO INTRODUCE A NEW CONSIDERATION INTO THE GREEK NEGOTIATIONS: THEY ARE SUGGESTING THAT PERHAPS THERE SHOULD BE A LENGTHY PERIOD BEFORE GREEK ACCESSION TO FULL MEMBERSHIP DURING WHICH THE GREEKS AND THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER WOULD TAKE MEASURES DESIGNED TO BRING A FURTHER CONVERGENCE OF GREEK AND EC MEMBER STATE ECONOMIES. HE SAID THAT THE U.K. AND OTHER DELEGATIONS HAVE POINTED OUT THAT THAT BRIDGE WAS CROSSED MORE THAN A YEAR AGO WHEN THE COUNCIL REJECTED THE EC COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION THAT THERE SHOULD BE A PRE-ACCESSION PERIOD FOR GREECE DURING WHICH SUCH MEASURES SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN. HE SAID THAT OTHER DELEGATIONS HAVE POINTED OUT, MOREOVER, THAT FRENCH EFFORTS IN COREPER SEEM TO BE AT VARIANCE WITH PROMISES WHICH GISCARD AND OTHER FRENCH OFFICIALS HAD REPORTEDLY GIVEN CARAMANLIS DURING HIS RECENT PARIS VISIT THAT THE GOF WOULD SUPPORT STEADY FORWARD MOVEMENT TOWARD EARLY AND FULL MEMBERSHIP. HINTON

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